



James Brokenshire MP  
Secretary of State  
Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government  
2 Marsham St  
London  
SW1P 4DF

1 May 2018

Dear James,

I am writing on behalf of UK Music, the umbrella body for the commercial music industry to congratulate you on your new role as Secretary of State at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. We look forward to working closely with you in the coming months.

UK Music is the umbrella body for the commercial music industry. We campaign and lobby for the collective interests of the music industry on behalf of artists, musicians, songwriters and composers, record labels, music publishers, studio producers, managers and music licensing organisations. We strive to develop optimum policies to support the recorded, published and live music markets. UK Music promotes the UK's extraordinarily successful commercial music sector and supports policies that drive economic growth and promote the benefits of music to British society. Submissions made by UK Music to Government are based on extensive consultation and have industry approval.

Music makes a key contribution to the economy. UK Music's *Measuring Music* Report has found that music generates £4.1 billion GVA and £2.2 billion of exports per annum, as well as employing 119,020 people in the UK.

Live music is vital for artists to build a fan base and generate an income as well as ensuring we have a strong talent pipeline across the country. *Wish You Were Here*, UK Music's Report on the contribution of music tourism to the economy found that 30.9 million people enjoyed live music events in the UK in 2016.

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However, worryingly 35 per cent of grassroots music venues in the UK have closed over the last decade. A growth in demand for property in UK cities has led to increasing rents and landlords deciding to sell property and land to developers. This has placed rising financial burdens on pre-existing operators of grassroots music venues, who are often situated in areas that are popular for redevelopment, and made them vulnerable to a more liberalised planning system

UK Music worked closely with your predecessor, Sajid Javid, with regard to our Agent of Change campaign to protect grassroots music venues. The Agent of Change principle places the onus on the developer to ensure solutions are put in place to mitigate any adverse impacts on existing businesses from the new development. For example, new residential accommodation may increase the likelihood of noise complaints that threaten a music venue business. The Agent of Change principle requires those responsible for the new residential accommodation to put measures in place to allow venues to continue to operate and co-exist.

After UK Music worked closely with your Department and DCMS, the Government announced it will be including the Agent of Change principle within its revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which local authorities are legally bound to comply with. This followed the introduction of the Planning (Agent of Change) Bill to Parliament by John Spellar MP. The consultation on the draft NPPF is open until 10 May and UK Music recently attended a roundtable at MHCLG with Officials from MHCLG, DEFRA, DCMS and the Home Office to discuss the implementation of the revised NPPF.

We welcome the progress made on Agent of Change to date and when the new NPPF comes into force we'd like to invite you to a live music venue to mark this occasion as an important step forward in protecting our best loved venues. Do let me know if this is something you would be interested in doing.

Many congratulations again.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael Dungher'.

CEO, UK Music

we'd love to help and support in any way we can!